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Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2245

January 16, 1986

SUMMARY OF FARM PROGRAMS: PRICE SUPPORTS

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block announced the following provisions of the 1986 price support programs for upland cotton, feed grains, rice and wheat: Required acreage reductions of 20 pct. for feed grains, 35 pct. for rice, 25 pct. for wheat and 25 pct. for cotton. Included is a 2½ pct. paid land diversion for wheat and feed producers...The 1986 loan rates per bushel will be \$1.56 for barley, \$1.92 for corn, \$.99 for oats, \$1.82 for sorghum, \$1.63 for rye, and \$2.40 for wheat...Target prices will be the same as in 1985; barley, \$2.60 per bushel; corn, \$3.03; oats, \$1.60; sorghum, \$2.88; and wheat, \$4.38 per bushel. The signup is anticipated to begin in early March.

DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Producers who plant at least 50 pct. of the permitted acreage to the program crop and plant the remaining permitted acreage to a non-program crop, other than soybeans or extra long staple cotton, will be eligible to receive deficiency payments on 92 pct. of the permitted acreage.

DIVERSION PAYMENTS

Winter wheat producers who reduce the acreage planted to wheat on the farm for harvest so that it does not exceed 65 pct. of the farm wheat base may be eligible to receive diversion payments on an acreage equivalent to 10 pct. of the wheat base.

CONSERVATION RESERVE

Farmers may begin in early March to volunteer highly erodible cropland for entry into the Conservation Reserve Program. This land will not be eligible for farming for 10 years and must instead be planted with permanent vegetative cover. Up to 45 million acres may be enrolled in the reserve during the five-year period, 1986 through 1990. Participants will receive annual rental payments, the amounts depending on the bid per acre and the number of acres under the 10-year contracts. Participants also will receive 50 pct. of eligible costs of establishing trees or grass on the acreage in reserve.

HAYING & GRAZING

Haying and grazing will be permitted on acreage conservation reserve land at the request of individual state ASC committees. However, haying and grazing will not be permitted on the acreage during the five principal growing months as designated by county ASC committees. A standby measure authorizes emergency haying and grazing privileges in the event of a natural disaster.

INFORMATION ON FARM PROGRAMS

For details on the Farm Programs, contact the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

MORE DETAILS ON
DAIRY HERD
BUY-OUT

Under the 1985 Farm Bill, a participating dairy producer would terminate milk production and sell for slaughter or export all dairy cattle - cows, heifers, and calves - in which the producer has an interest. The new act requires the Sec'y of Agriculture to implement a milk production termination program by April 1, 1986. To participate, dairy producers will submit a hundredweight-for-milk bid based on their base period milk marketings. If the bid is accepted, the producer will be required to stay out of dairying for five years and not use or allow the use of his facilities for milk production for that period. For details, contact local ASCS office.

AUSSIE WHEAT
TO USSR

While the U.S. has not made significant wheat sales to the Soviet since the summer of 1985, Australia recently concluded its largest sale ever to the Soviet, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 2.5 million metric ton sale makes the Soviet Australia's most important market and brings total Australian sales to all buyers to 9 million tons for the local Oct.-Sept. 1985/86 marketing year.

U.S. AG.
EXPORTS

U.S. agricultural exports during Oct.-Nov. 1985 totaled \$5.1 billion, down \$1.3 billion - or 20 pct. - from the same period a year earlier. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, export volume during the Oct.-Nov. period amounted to 22.5 million tons, off approximately 14 pct. from the 26.2 million tons exported during the first two months of the previous fiscal year. The sharpest year-to-year declines were in wheat, corn, soybean oil, cotton, tobacco and sunflowerseed. These drops were due to declines in both unit value and volume from a year earlier.

WORLD WHEAT
PRODUCTION

The world production of wheat for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 504.2 million tons, down 1 million or less than 1 pct. from last month and down 2 pct. from last year's record harvest. India's production is estimated at 44.2 million tons...European Community production, 66.2 million tons...East Europe production, 37.4 million tons.

COARSE GRAINS -
WORLD PROD.

The world production of coarse grains for 1985/86 is estimated at a record 840.4 million tons, down 4.6 million or less than 1 pct. from last month, but up 4 pct. from last year according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the U.S., production is estimated at a record 270.9 million tons, down 400 thousand or less than 1 pct. from last month, but up 14 pct. from last year's harvest. Lower estimated oat and barley production more than offset an increase in rye production.

WORLD OILSEEDS
PRODUCTION

The world production of oilseeds for 1985/86 is estimated at a record 194.1 million tons, down 2.6 million or 1 pct. from last month, but up 3 pct. from last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. production is estimated at 66.5 million tons, down 100 thousand or less than 2 pct. from last month, but up 12 pct. from last year. Foreign production is estimated at a near record 127.7 million tons, down 2.5 million or 2 pct. from last month and down 1 pct. from last year's record.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

1986 FARM PROGRAMS... Secretary of Agriculture John Block recently announced the first details of several commodity programs affected by the new farm bill. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (101)

FARM CREDIT LEGISLATION... Delmar Banner, President of The Farm Credit Council, focuses on the major provisions of the recent farm credit assistance legislation signed by President Reagan. Vic Powell interviews. (102)

CITRUS CANKER UPDATE... Stephen Poe with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, describes the current situation in Florida since the recent citrus canker outbreak and the research underway to study this infestation. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (103)

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL PROGRAM... The U.S. Department of Agriculture is preparing to assume direction of the Animal Damage Control Program. Bert Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, comments on the transfer and what it will mean to farmers and ranchers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (104)

CASH-FLOW PLANNING FOR FARMERS... A new application of high technology may eventually help farmers plot their own financial paths. Buel Lanpher, farm management program leader with USDA's Extension Service, talks about the advantages of this self-help program. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (105)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1494... (Weekly 13½ min documentary) On this edition George Holmes talks to U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Soviet Analyst Keith Severin giving some insight into how the Soviets operate their food system.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1483... (Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Farm programs announced; Peanut producers referendum; New farm census information; New export projections.

CONSUMER TIME #976... (Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Irradiated pork on the way; Vegetable trends; Short cut for cleaning; Thawing frozen pipes; A wooden office building?

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE... Fri, Jan. 31, Ag prices report; Mon, Feb. 3, Dairy products report; Tues, Feb. 4, Weekly weather and crop report; Wed, Feb. 5, Ag. resources report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

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Earl Sargent decided to hang it up after 28 years of broadcasting, and retired from KWFT, Wichita Falls, TX, December 31. Sarg served as president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters in 1980. Our Best Wishes to Sarg in his retirement. Barry Mahler, who has been working as Sarg's backup for the past year moved into the farm director's position at the station, January 1. Barry has a background in farming and ranching in the area for the past 15 years ... Jaime Kaestner left the Linder Farm Network in Willmar, MN, to the first part of the new year to become the manager of information services for the National Cattlemen's Assoc. in Denver ... Neil Anderson is back in broadcasting as the farm director at WQAD-TV, Moline, IL. Earlier in his career he was farm broadcaster at WRAM, Monmouth, IL ... We received a short but interesting note from Layne Beaty (retired chief, USDA Radio/TV) who is in California taking in the sunshine (we hope). His note passed on a clipping from the local Del Mar paper, which pointed out that a San Diego radio station would be providing radio coverage of the Rose Parade with commentary by "...blind broadcaster Doug-Wakefield." Doug, as you remember, was a member of our USDA radio staff before setting up his own computer business for the sight handicapped ... Taylor Brown (Northern Ag Network, Billings, MT) received the 1986 Communications Award from the National Association of Conservation Districts. Nice going! ... The new Yearbook of Agriculture, "U.S. Agriculture in a Global Economy" is out, and we have a limited supply of free copies. If you'd like a copy, let us know. But, don't delay. Once our supply of free copies is gone, that's it ... WRTL, Rantoul, IL, is looking for a farm broadcaster to establish a farm program for the station. To learn more about the job, contact general manager Bill Reynolds: WRTL, Box 115, Rantoul, IL 61866, telephone 217-893-1462.



JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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